<u>In the Claims</u>:

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 7 as follows:

1.   (Amended)   In a database management system, a method for viewing changes to an original optimization plan for a query having a reference to an original table with data stored in a database, the method comprising:

        copying the original table excluding the data to define a virtual table;

        providing a virtual index associated with the virtual table;

        replacing, in the query, the reference to the original table with a reference to the virtual table;

        adding, to the query, a reference to the virtual index; <u>and</u>

        determining a new optimization plan for the query [[; and]].

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising comparing the new optimization plan with the original optimization plan.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 2, further comprising, before comparing the new and the original optimization plans:

        replacing, in the new optimization plan, the reference to the virtual table with the reference to the original table; and

        displaying, to a user, the new optimization plan with the reference to the original table.

4.   (Amended)   In a database management system, a method for viewing changes to an original optimization plan for a query having: (i) a reference to an original table with

data stored in a database, and (ii) a reference to an original index associated with the original

table, the method comprising:

    copying the original table excluding the data to define a virtual table;

    changing the original index to define a virtual index associated with the virtual

table; and

    determining a new optimization plan for the query [[; and]] .

    5.   (Original)   The method of claim 4, further comprising comparing the new

optimization plan with the original optimization plan.

    6.   (Original)   The method of claim 5, further comprising, before comparing the

new and the original optimization plans:

    replacing, in the new optimization plan, the references to the virtual table and

the virtual index with, respectively, the references to the original table and original index; and

    displaying, to a user, the new optimization plan with the references to the

original table and the original index.

    7.   (Amended)   In a database management system, a method for viewing changes

to an original optimization plan for a query having: (i) a reference to an original table with

data stored in a database, and (ii) a reference to an original index associated with the original

table, the method comprising:

    copying the original table excluding the data to define a virtual table;

replacing, in the query, the reference to the original table with a reference to the virtual table;

deleting, from the query, the reference to the virtual table; <u>and</u>

determining a new optimization plan for the query [[; and]].

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, further comprising comparing the new optimization plan with the original optimization plan.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8, further comprising, before comparing the new and the original optimization plans:

replacing, in the new optimization plan, the reference to the virtual table with the reference to the original table; and

displaying, to a user, the new optimization plan with the reference to the original table.